Dear MinErAL members, you will find below the latest news from our research network. Have a good reading!

Word from the Principal Investigator

Many activities were planned for the spring of 2020, but Covid-19 decided otherwise and our entire program was cancelled due to global uncertainty. But the good news is that all the activities are being rescheduled for 2021, so that will give us time to better prepare these events.

Please note the new dates: Spring 2021 in Montréal for the international conference, Mining the Connections, organized with the REXSAC and AMÉDÉE networks. We also hope to hold the two sessions with the International Association for Impact Assessment Conference that has been postponed to the end of May 2021. The summer school we are organizing with REXSAC in the Norrbotten region of Sweden is also postponed to June 2021. Finally, the Arctic researchers of the network will meet at the ICASS X Congress in Arkhangelsk, Russia, also in June 2021.

We are also in the process of publishing the results of our MinErAL projects with two publications in progress. First, a special issue of Extractive Industries and Society on Mining Cities in Transition that will include contributions from students and researchers who participated in the summer schools. We are also preparing a collective book that will present the results of the research projects undertaken within the network. More detailed information is provided below and feel free to submit proposals for chapters.

In the meantime, take care of yourself and your loved ones and we'll see you on the other side of this pandemic.

Ongoing activities
Despite international events, our network continues to move research forward. Here are just a few of the activities we are working on.

**First Collective Book by MinErAL Network Researchers**

More than 10 different researchers are already working on a collective book to be published in 2021 by Routledge. The book will present the results of research carried out by our researchers and partners within the MinErAL network. The first draft of their papers will be presented during the conference *Mining the Connections*, which will be held in the spring of 2021.

If you want to contribute to the book, let us know. We will be more than happy to include your work.

**Webinars Coming Up**

Our team is working on setting up webinars with researchers and network partners. However, before organizing these activities, we would like to know what interest you have in webinars. Would you be interested in attending webinars? What themes or topics would be of interest to you? If you are interested in speaking at a conference, please let us know. In other words, write to us to give us your ideas and to let us know your interest!


This project is conducted by Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh (Griffiths U.) and Thierry Rodon (Laval U.), in partnership with Indigenous organizations in Canada (Conseil de la Nation Innu de Matimekush-Lac John) and Australia (Ely Mine Beneficiaries Trust and the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation). This project looks at the implementation of negotiated agreements (IBAs) between mining companies and Indigenous organizations in Canada and Australia. Existing research shows that major problems of implementation have arisen with agreements in Australia and Canada. It is less clear what can be done to avoid implementation failure. In particular, there has been almost no research conducted with the active involvement of Indigenous parties that have signed agreements. This project focuses on explaining why implementation failure occurs, and what can be done during and after agreement negotiations to minimize it. It addresses these questions by focusing on agreements that have been in place for different periods of
time or that are currently being negotiated.

Three new researchers join our network!

In 2019-2020, we were happy to welcome three new researchers in our network. Welcome on board!

**Ciaran O’Faicheallaigh (Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia)**

Ciaran O’Faircheallaigh is Professor of Politics and Public Policy at Griffith University, Brisbane. He has previously held positions at the University of Papua New Guinea, the Australian National University and Queens University, Ontario. He has published numerous articles and books in the fields of public policy, policy evaluation and policy implementation, resource economics and resources policy, negotiation, impact assessment and indigenous studies. For over 20 years he has worked with indigenous organizations in Australia and Canada on social impact assessments and on negotiation of agreements with resource development companies, and has acted as an advisor or negotiator for many of Australia’s leading Aboriginal organizations, including the Cape York, Northern, Central, Yamatji and Kimberley Land Councils. He is currently working on a research project with Thierry Rodon on the implementation of agreements in indigenous communities in Canada and Australia.

**Miguel San Sebastian (Umeå University, Umea, Sweden)**

Miguel is a medical doctor with a MSc degree in control of infectious diseases and a Ph.D. degree in environmental epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He practiced public health during 12 years among indigenous communities of the Amazon basin of Ecuador. He is currently working as Professor in Public Health at the unit of Epidemiology and Global Health at Umeå University. His current research is focused on strengthening health systems in low-income countries and social inequalities in health in the Swedish context. He is also part of the Norrland’s Observatory for Equity in Health and Health Care (NOEHHC). He is currently working with Mylène Riva on the impacts of mining activities on the health and well-being of indigenous communities.

**Andrew Taylor (Charles Darwin University, Darwin, Australia)**

Andrew researches the causes and consequences of population change for the Northern Territory of Australia and northern regions more broadly. He undertakes both quantitative
and qualitative research to understand impacts from policy, economic and structural changes for communities. In his PhD he investigated policy and theoretical implications from changing migration practices for Indigenous Territorians. Prior to academia, Andrew worked for a decade with the Australian Bureau of Statistics. He currently teaches the masters level subject Topics in Human Geography at Charles Darwin University.

Welcome to the Network’s new partner
The Research Group on Extractive Projects and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America

The Research Group under the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) is working on indigenous peoples and extractive projects, to improve the relations between these actors. Thirty researchers in Social Sciences, from 9 different countries in Latin America, are now part of the Research Group. Collaborating researchers from North America and doctoral students complete this group.

For more information on our new partner, please visit its website at https://www.clacso.org/grupos-de-trabajo/grupos-de-trabajo-2019-2022/?pag=detalle&refe=7&ficha=1682.

Interview with Gonzalo Bustamante Riviera from the Research Group on Extractive Projects and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America

The Research Group on Extractive Projects and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America joined the network as a new partner. Here’s an interview with Gonzalo Bustamante Riviera, the coordinator of the Research Group.

What are the projects that you are currently working on?
As the coordinator of the Research Group on Extractive Projects and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America since November 2019, the group works with researchers of almost all Latin American countries. These researchers work on questions as conflicts between indigenous communities and mining projects. The exchanges are led by researchers and indigenous communities to analyse and theorize the question of compatibility or incompatibility between indigenous rights and extractive projects, as well as cooperate with governmental agencies.
How is your experience related to the objectives of MinErAL?
For 20 years, I have been working on questions such as conflicts between indigenous communities. I started as a committed speaker with Mapuche communities in Chile, before being a University Professor. I completed my Ph.D. in 2018 at the University du Québec en Outaouais, where I participated in researches on governance with Algonquin indigenous organizations. My thesis consisted of the implementation of the rights to consultation and accommodation in extractive projects. Currently living in Chile, I am a professor at the Universidad de La Frontera, where I am collaborating with the Diaguita people, fighting against violations of their rights by mining companies.

What kind of advantages could our collaboration lead to?
The perspective of the working group under the CLASCO on the advantages of working with MinErAL is having exchange instances with researchers of other regions of the world, as well as between indigenous peoples of Latin America and other regions. Therefore, these exchanges could lead to comparative research to understand the dynamics, tensions and conditions of indigenous people’s self-determination. In particular, the working group is interested in the process of self-government in situations of extractive projects, in Latin America and in other regions.

Selected Publications from the MinErAL Network Researchers
Here is a glimpse at our members’ new publications! Considering the numerous researchers involved in our network, this list of selected publications is merely an overview of the multiple interests and regions covered by their research. We emphasized the publications that resulted from collaborations among the researchers of our network. Please keep us updated on your latest works and publications, so we can present them in our newsletter’s next issue. Pleasant reading!


KEELING, Arn, John SANDLOS, Jean-Sébastien BOUTET, Hereward LONGLEY & Anne...


WILSON, Gary Norman, Christopher ALCANTARA & Thierry RODON. 2020. “Nested Federalism and Inuit Governance in the Canadian Arctic”. UBC Press.


New activity calendar for 2021

- **Spring 2021 – Mining the Connections**

  The Multi-Network Conference “Mining the Connections” is postponed to the spring of 2021. This international conference will reunite academic researchers, students, government representatives, indigenous and non-indigenous community members, NGOs and mining companies, who will discuss mining developments. The call for sessions and abstracts is postponed to the fall of 2020.

  We invite you to visit our website to stay informed of the latest news: [https://miningconnections.ulaval.ca/](https://miningconnections.ulaval.ca/)

- **May 2021 - Two MinErAL Sessions at the IAIA Conference**

  MinErAL will hold two sessions at the 40th Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment, which is postponed to May 2021 in Seville, Spain. The Conference theme is science, technology, and governance advancements toward efficiency and
effectiveness. Two members will hold a session, called “Implementing FPIC through the IA processes” (Thierry Rodon) and “Can IA contribute to indigenous sustainable livelihood?” (Anne Merrild Hansen).

- **June 15-19, 2021 - ICASS X Conference in Arkhangelsk**

The 10th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences that will be held in Arkhangelsk, Russia, is also postponed to June 15-19, 2021. The Congress’s theme is the *Arctic Generations: Looking Back and Looking Forward*. We hope to keep our session. MinErAL and REXSAC networks will be presenting a session called *Arctic Mining Lives and Future*, organized by Thierry Rodon and Dag Avango. It will be the occasion to compare northern Canada, Greenland and Fennoscandia. The session will be on the communities living with extractive industries and on how they are adapting to changes related to resource extraction. Several participants from our network are expected!

- **June 2021 - Summer School on Mining Cities in Transition**

The second summer school will take place in the region of Norrbotten, Sweden, before or after the ICASS X Conference. This doctoral seminar of ten days will be a good opportunity for researchers and doctoral students from Canada and Fennoscandia to compare the different contexts. It follows the summer school held in 2019 which took place Schefferville, Fermont and Labrador City (Canada). The results of the two summer school will be published in a special issue of *Extractive Industries and Society* that is in preparation.

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